the NHAI has invited expression of interest for establishing, operating and maintaining wayside amenities at eleven locations of which four pertain to NH-5 in Andhra Pradesh.

Ring Road Scheme in Varanasi

†1791. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whther proposed ring road scheme in Varanasi has been cancelled;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the reasons for not commencing work on this scheme so far; and

(d) by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The construction of Varanasi-Ramnagar-Mugalsarai bypass on National Highway No. 2 has been completed in South-West of Varanasi. This stretch also links National Highway No. 7. The stretch known as Northern Bypass has three parts *viz.* NH-2 to NH-56, NH-56 to NH-29 and NH-29 to NH-2. the land acquisition work between NH-56 to NH-29 has been sanctioned after feasibility study. The proposal of feasibility study for the stretches between NH-2 to NH-56 and NH-29 to NH-2 are included in the Annual Plan 2005-2006. All these bypasses will form a Ring Road around Varanasi. the construction work can be taken only after feasibility study and land acquisition are completed. Hence it is not possible to indicate the likely date of completion at this stage.

Challenges from Multinational Companies

1792. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Small Scale Industries are facing challenges of competition from Multinational companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to help Small Scale Industries?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD) : (a) The process fo liberalization and globalization presents both opportunities and challenges to the Indian Small scale Industries (SSI), in terms of wider markets and greater competition, respectively.

(b) To help the SSI enhance their competitiveness, the Central Government implements a number of schemes/programms with a view to providing the SSI, *inter alia,* easier access to credit, collateral-free loans upto Rs. 5 lakh, credit guarantee for loans upto Rs. 25 lakh, credit linked capital subsidy for technology upgradation, facility for testing the quality of products, reimbursement of 75% of the cost of obtaining ISO-9000/ 14001 upto Rs. 75,000/-, etc.

Employment Generation in SSIs

1793. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to reward the States on the basis of performance of scheme implemented to generate employment in Small Scale Industries Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have prepared a list of States which are lagging behind in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to help these States for improving in performance of Small Scale Industries?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Based on the performance in the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) specifically designed for creating self-employment opportunities, States are given additional allocation of targets and the required additional funds.

(c) and (d) Based on the performance of States/Union Territories (UTs) under the PMRY, as reported by the Reserve Bank of India for the year 2004-05, the States/UTs have been grouped into four categories. The category-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below)

(e) The State Governments/UT Administrations are primarily responsible for the promotion and development of small scale industries (SSI). The Central Government supplements their efforts by implementing a number of schemes/programmes uniformly throughout the country for development and promotion of SSI.